

U.S. Parent Application Serial No. 10/600,089
Reply to Office Action dated September 27, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claim 19 and 29 are hereby amended.

The amendments to claims 19 and 29 are supported, for example, on page 5, line 4-11 and Figure 1.

Claims 19, 20, 22, 23, 29, 31, and 32 were rejected as being anticipated by Kuroda (US 6,370,091). Applicants traverse this rejection. Kuroda teaches a recording configuration where the positions of the address regions are varied between different recording layers. See Kuroda Figure 5, which shows the address regions varying between the first recording layer and the second recording layer. In contrast, claims 19 and 29 specify that in one recording layer ("in each of the first recording layer to the (n-1) recording layer"), "no pair of adjacent leading edges of address regions in the radial direction of the disk... are arranged so as to be aligned on a straight line passing through a center of the disk". Thus, the common address regions are arranged so as not to form a block. This configuration reduces the influence of the address region in a recording layer that is positioned closer to the laser light incident side (see page 12, lines 14-31). Kuroda does not suggest the positional relationship between address regions on one recording layer. Favorable reconsideration of claims 19, 20, 22, 23, 29, 31, and 32 is requested.

Claims 21 and 30 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kuroda in view of Miyamoto (US 5,936,933). Miyamoto does not remedy the deficiencies of Kuroda noted above. Applicants are not conceding the relevance of Miyamoto as applied to claims 21 and 30.

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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)371-5237.

Respectfully submitted,



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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

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DPM:mfe